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SUBJECT: USAID HUMANITARIAN/RECONSTRUCTION SITUATION REPORT
#2 25 MARCH 2003

SUMMARY

1. The DART is expecting the delivery of relief supplies to the warehouse in Kuwait within the week. On 23 March, a WFP plane arrived at Kuwait International Airport with 40 MT of high-energy biscuits, and on 24 March, two shipments of wheat donated by the Australian Government departed Muscat en route to the Port of Umm Qasr, where they will dock when the port is deemed secure. The DART plans to conduct a reconnaissance mission to assess port security supported by Civil Affairs (CA). On 24 March, two CA liaison officers joined the DART to assist in connecting DART staff with forward operational units and facilitate information sharing. The Health Fusion Cell has been assembled to discuss relief, reconstruction, and the planning for support to the post-regime Iraqi Ministry of Health. Approximately 5,000 people crossed into Kurdish held areas in the North during March, but there have been few if any crossings since the Iraqis closed and mined the border. On 24 March, DART Abuse Prevention Officers met with CA officers assigned to the DART, who will facilitate APU communication with CA battalions in the field. Also on 24 March, DART OTI staff briefed ORHA coordinators and on the proposed procedure for the local grant program. During the 23 March HOC briefing, significant informal information was passed to UNSECOORD to help with the accurate assessment the operational security posture in Kuwait.

2. On March 24, the first DART/USAID Iraq joint collaboration meeting was held. Between 19 and 23 March, a USAID Reconstruction Team representative and military officials in Doha held a coordination meeting to plan subsequent USCENTCOM movements. On 24 March, PAOs from DART and USAID mission met with the OHRA Public Affairs team in preparation for media coverage of the OHRA Director's entry into Baghdad. USAID Mission will brief ORHA, CFLCC, and USCENTCOM on USAID policies and procedures for field operations including procurement and contract management.
End Summary.

LOGISTICS

3. Over the next week, seventeen 40-foot containers of relief supplies are scheduled to be delivered to the DART warehouse in Kuwait. Cargo in the containers consists of hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, and wool blankets.

FOOD

4. On 23 March, a World Food Program (WFP) plane arrived at Kuwait International Airport with 40 Metric Tons (MT) of high-energy biscuits. This arrival marked the second of four planes that will carry a total of 160 MT of food, enough to feed 50,000 beneficiaries for three months. These commodities will be targeted for emergency supplemental feeding countrywide in Iraq.

5. On 24 March, two shipments of wheat donated by the Australian Government departed Muscat. The shipments are expected to arrive at the Port of Umm Qasr when it is deemed secure. However, there are no milling facilities at the port. The closest are in and around Basra. If the mills in Basra are operational, they could be used once trucking becomes available. In the interim, the wheat could be

stored in a silo or distributed whole. The issue of financing the associated costs beyond shipping has yet to be resolved. DART is planning a reconnaissance mission to the port in the coming days.

HEALTH

16. The Health Fusion Cell, comprised of the DART Health Team, Civil Affairs health and public health units, USAID Reconstruction Team, and other donors, has been assembled to discuss relief, reconstruction, and the planning for support to the post-regime Iraqi Ministry of Health. Members of the Health Fusion Cell are meeting daily with NGOs to discuss assessments, capabilities, and planning. The second meeting was held on 24 March, and included observers from the International Committee of the Red Cross and representatives from the Iraqi Refugee Aid Council and their partner the American Refugee Committee, the International Medical Corps, Samaritan's Purse, Mercy Corps International (MCI), the International Development and Relief Board, and Physicians for Human Rights. The DART Health Team discussed the availability of, and anticipated need for, further assessments in health and the capabilities of the DART Rapid Assessment form. The DART anticipates the application of the rapid assessment forms once the security situation allows entrance into the southern region. The DART is currently receiving proposals for emergency health interventions.

POPULATION DISPLACEMENTS

17. On 24 March, Team North received a briefing from MCI on the situation in northern Iraq. According to MCI, people are returning home, and the shops are open. However, the general feeling is that the situation remains volatile. Despite recent media reports of 400,000 internally displaced persons in northern Iraq, Team North reported that 5,000 people crossed into Kurdish-held areas in the North during March. There have been no reports of refugees crossing into Turkey.

ABUSE PREVENTION UNIT (APU)

18. On 24 March, DART Abuse Prevention Officers met with CA officers assigned to the DART, who will facilitate APU communication with CA battalions in the field. The APU also plans to brief all new CA arrivals and will distribute the Abuse Prevention Field Guide to all CA battalions that are already forward.

OFFICE OF TRANSITION INITIATIVES (OTI)

18. On 24 March, DART OTI staff briefed the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) coordinators on the proposed procedure for the local grant program, which was well received and matched closely with ORHA plans for quick impact grants. On 25 March, the DART OTI team will meet with USAID Reconstruction staff to examine possibility of DART OTI assistance to the USAID mission in initiating early water and sanitation activities at the community level until the USAID contractor is mobilized.

HUMANITARIAN OPERATION CENTER (HOC)

19. Approximately 60 people attended the HOC briefing on 22 March. During the briefing, significant informal information was passed to United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) to help them accurately assess the operational security posture in Kuwait. On 22 March, journalists were allowed into Umm Qasr under heavy military escort and protection. Graphics and geographic coordinates of seven burning oil wells were briefed. Civil Affairs teams are assessing the burning wells and arranging for contractors to extinguish them. Dark clouds of smoke obscure the Kuwait City skyline when the winds are calm. The HOC and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies are setting up a schedule to provide personal nuclear, biological, and chemical protection training to those interested.

MILITARY LIAISON UNIT

10. On 24 March, the first meeting at the Humanitarian

Assistance Coordination Center (HACC) was held. A main topic of discussion was the security assessment trip to Umm Qasr. The Civil Affairs (CA) personnel have been very supportive of the DART's attempts to move forward to assess the port. During the meeting, it was requested that the HACC work with the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) command and the HOC to develop a protocol for the passage and coordination of IO/NGO/UN personnel in the I MEF AOR. However, as there do not seem to be large numbers of displaced persons at this time, the need for a humanitarian response appears minimal at present. However, there are significant security considerations that need attention.

¶11. Also on 24 March, two CA liaison officers temporarily joined the DART. They will assist in connecting DART staff with forward operational units and facilitate the information collected by forward CA teams using the new United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) rapid assessment forms. The CA liaison officers will facilitate operational activities when DART staff move into Iraq to begin needs-based assessments.

USAID - RECONSTRUCTION

¶12. The head of the USAID Reconstruction Team and the DART Team Leader convened the first DART/USAID Iraq joint collaboration meeting on 24 March to discuss mutual program priorities, introduce new staff, requirement for, and coordination of, reporting to Washington, press guidance, assessment sharing, and other matters of joint concern. Between 19 to 23 March, a USAID representative and military officials in Doha held a coordination meeting to plan subsequent USCENTCOM movements.

¶13. Between 19 and 23 March, a USAID Reconstruction Team representative and military officials in Doha held a coordination meeting to plan subsequent U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) movements. The USAID Reconstruction Team also plans Mission personnel to meet with elements of Coalition Forces Land Component Command(CFLCC) to explain USAID program processes including contracting, administration, and other functions.

¶14. Plans are being made within ORHA for the eventual move of ORHA elements, including reconstruction, to Baghdad. Current plans call for a phased move of 20 reconstruction people, followed by approximately 30 others.

¶15. On 24 March, Public Affairs Officers (PAOs) from DART and USAID mission met with the OHRA Public Affairs team to begin planning for a media event featuring OHRA Director Garner on his entry into Baghdad. The focus of the meeting was to define message content, event profile, and prospective audiences.

¶16. USAID Mission will brief ORHA, CFLCC, and USCENTCOM on USAID policies and procedures for field operations including procurement and contract management. USAID Mission, ORHA, USCENTCOM, and CFLCC will also hold a two-day planning meeting this week to ensure coordination on meeting reconstruction goals. Additionally, USAID Mission, ORHA, CFLCC, and ORHA (HA) will meet to establish USAID requirements for the establishment of a HOC-like office in Baghdad.

JONES